

## PRESS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney Middle District of Florida

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## For Immediate Release

March 25, 2003

## <u>DISTRIBUTOR OF STARLIGHT INTERNATIONAL, INC.</u> SENTENCED FOR CONSPIRACY TO DEFRAUD THE IRS

Ft. Myers, Florida — United States District Judge John E. Steele sentenced Alan M. Poms to 180 days of home confinement, \$10,000 fine, 100 hours of community service and three years of probation for conspiring to defraud the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371. As a special condition of probation, Judge Steele ordered Poms to pay all taxes, penalties and interest found by the IRS to be lawfully owed and due. Poms, an independent distributor for Starlight International, Inc., a multi-level marketing company selling nutritional products, pleaded guilty to the conspiracy charge on September 30, 2002, before Magistrate Judge Douglas N. Frazier. During his plea hearing, Poms admitted that he conspired with one or more persons to impede the IRS from ascertaining, computing and assessing his individual income taxes for the 1987, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1993- 1997 tax years.

The case was prosecuted by the Department of Justice, Tax Division, attorneys William Lovett and Francine Davis.